

WOMT Summary 12/19/2006

The DSWG presented two recommendations to WOMT today. The first was the finalized, proactive delta smelt protection recommendation:

- Implement a proactive winter action to address concerns about wintertime entrainment of adults during “first flush” conditions. It is unlikely that any action will be needed until after December 25th. Delta water temperatures have already dropped below 13 degrees C (compiled from data from Mossdale, Antioch and Rio Vista). Once the time of year and water temperature cues are appropriate for smelt migration to spawning areas, the Working Group may recommend the following: no more than seven days after Sacramento River flow at Freeport rises above 25,000 cfs for at least three days, increase flows in lower Old and Middle Rivers to at least -3500 cfs until February 15th.
- If no Sacramento River pulse above 25,000 cfs occurs by January 15th then Old and Middle River flows should be moderated to a range of -5000 cfs to -3500 cfs until February 15th.
- If flows on the Sacramento River are above 25,000 cfs prior to Dec 25th, and remain above 25,000 cfs through Feb 15th, the Working Group does not anticipate requesting operational changes. However, actions may be considered if Freeport flows increase but are not sustained above 25,000 cfs or if high salvage events occur.

The second was:

Forego installation of the Head-of-Old River Barrier and to postpone installation and operation of the agricultural barriers until June 1.

WOMT concurred with the first recommendation, but made several modifications to the Old and Middle rivers Flow criterion to accommodate data acquisition and project operations scheduling. The data acquisition will require two days to obtain the daily average and tidally filtered Old and Middle rivers flow. The operators required time for scheduling and implementing export changes. The first modification was to define the Old and Middle rivers Flow criterion as a 5-day running average of the measured flow. The second modification was to identify the Old and Middle rivers Flow criterion to a target instead of a specific requirement because this will be the first time operating to this new criterion and we anticipate some variability. Lastly, the action will begin five days after criteria are exceeded.

WOMT deferred a conclusion on the second recommendation to forego installation of the HORB and postpone the agricultural barriers until June 1.

Please note new contact information

Sheila Greene

Staff Environmental Scientist
CA Department of Water Resources
Division of Environmental Services
901 P Street, room 444
Sacramento, CA 95814
916/651-9784 voice
916/651-0209 fax